

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07741 01 OF 04 031333 Z

42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12

RSR-01 /128 W

----- 095325

O R 031050 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1138

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 7741

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07741 01 OF 04 031333 Z

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZED ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 3.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: CHOPPER RECOVERY TEAM LEAVES QUANG TRI CRASH SITE
BY ROAD; PRG CLAIMS IT FIRED ON " INTRUDING" HOSTILE
AIRCRAFT, NOT ICCS- MARKED CHOPPERS; WRANGLING OVER PRG
RESTRICTIONS ON FLIGHT PATHS CONTINUES.

PART II TPJMC: NO CIVILIAN DETAINEES RELEASED MAY 3; DELAY
CAUSED BY PROBLEMS WITH ICCS OVER FLIGHT SAFETY.

PART III FPJMT/ MIA: DRV PROMISES TO SCHEDULE FIRST VISIT TO
NVN SOON.

PART IV MR-1: MILITARY ACTIVITY MODERATE.

PART V MR-2: MILITARY ACTIVITY AT VERY LOW LEVEL; APPREHENSION
IN DARLAC; INFO ON " CIVILIANS" RELEASED IN BINH DINH
BY PRG.

PART VI MR-3: LOW LEVEL MILITARY ACTIVITY; BIEN HOA/ XUAN LOC
RR AGAIN SABOTAGED; ENEMY REINFORCEMENTS IN HAU NGHIA.

PART VII MR-4: MILITARY ACTIVITY HIGH; TERRORISM SEVERE; KIEN
VAN DISTRICT, KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, UNDER PRESSURE; NEXT
MEKONG CONVOY POSTPONED TO MAY 6.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. THE MAY 2 ICCS PLENARY OPENED WITH DISCUSSION OF A MAY 1 PRG
LETTER WHICH LAID DOWN THE MODALITIES FOR PROPOSED MAY 2
ICCS FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH TO OBSERVE THE RVN RELEASE OF 200
CIVILIAN DETAINEES. THE POLISH CHAIRMAN OF THE INFORMAL ICCS
POW COMMITTEE TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD ON MAY 1 ARGUED WITH THE PRG
THE INADEQUACY OF ITS LIMITATION OF AIR CORRIDORS TO 4
KILOMETERS WIDTH (AT 1,000 METERS ALTITUDE UP ROUTE 13), BUT THE PRG
WOULD NOT RPT NOT BUDGE. POLDEL SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR AN
EIGHT- KILOMETER WIDE CORRIDOR BUT PROPOSED THAT HE BE
AUTHORIZED TO OFFER A COMPROMISE AT SIX.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07741 01 OF 04 031333 Z

2. CANDEL AMBASSADOR GAUVIN MAINTAINED THAT CANADIANS COULD
NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT SUCH A RESTRICTION. IN FACT, GAUVIN
ASSERTED THERE SHOULD BE NO CORRIDORS AT ALL, AND SUCH
RESTRICTIONS ARE A VIOLATION OF THE ICCS' S FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT. IF ICCS HAD TO ACCEPT CORRIDORS, GAUVIN ARGUED, THEY
SHOULD BE AT LEAST 16 KILOMETERS WIDE, THOUGH CANDEL WOULD ACCEPT
10. HUNGDEL SUGGESTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN BE AUTHORIZED TO CALL
ON THE PRG TPJMC ACTING CHIEF AND SEE IF THEY COULD AGREE ON
AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT FOR THIS SET OF FLIGHTS. CANDEL
SAID ON AN AD HOC BASIS THEY WOULD AGREE TO AN EIGHT-
KILOMETER CORRIDOR. INDODEL AGREED THAT EIGHT KILOMETERS
IS THE MINIMUM. THE CHAIRMAN (POLAND) SAID HE WOULD SEE THE
PRG ACTING CHIEF AND TELL HIM THE ICCS REQUIRED AN EIGHT-

KILOMETER CORRIDOR.

3. THE NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS AN APRIL 30 LETTER FROM THE PRG COMPLAINING THAT ON APRIL 26 THE RVN HAD SHELLED A SITE IN LONG AN PROVINCE WHICH HAD BEEN DESIGNATED FOR THE RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES APRIL 28-30. THE PLENARY DIRECTED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO ORDER THE ICCS REGION V (BIEN HOA) TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

4. CANDEL THEN ASKED IF EITHER THE PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN (INDODEL) OR THE NEW (POLDEL) HAD ANY INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION AT DUC CO (REGION III), WHICH THE PLENARY HAD ORDERED TEMPORARILY EVACUATED ON APRIL 27. NEITHER DELEGATION VOLUNTEERED ANYTHING. CANDEL THEN OUTLINED THE PRG'S CONDUCT AT DUC CO, WHICH HAD PREVENTED THE ICCS' SUB-REGION TEAM'S DEPARTURE. CANDEL ADDED THAT THE PRG HAD NO RIGHT TO PREVENT THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE ICCS AND PRG CONDUCT IS UNACCEPTABLE. THE ICCS TEAM AT DUC CO SHOULD LEAVE AND NO PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FROM THE PRG. ALL AGREED, AND THE CHAIRMAN IS TO SEE THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE PRG TPJMC ON THE MATTER. (SEE PARA 12 BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFO.)

5. THE CHAIRMAN REPORTED THAT THOUGH THE RVN HAD NOT RPT NOT YET GRANTED THE ICCS REQUEST TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, RVN HAS REPLIED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL RECEIVE THE ICCS CHAIRMAN. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WILL CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND CANDEL COL. MITCHELL, WHO IS AN EXPERT ON THE AIR SERVICES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 07741 01 OF 04 031333 Z

SITUATION. THE CHAIRMAN WILL RAISE THE QUESTIONS OF INVITED CONTRACTOR STATUS FOR CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WORKING FOR THE ICCS AND ICCS AIR SERVICE FACILITIES.

6. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THEN REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO SUPPLY IT WITH REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE ICCS TO THE TPJMC. HE ASKED IF HE SHOULD COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST. A DECISION WAS PUT OFF TO THE NEXT MEETING. (COMMENT: WE EMPHASIZED TO CANDEL THAT WE NEED THESE REPORTS TO FULFILL OUR OBLIGATION UNDER ARTICLE 6 OF THE ACT OF THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, WHICH AUTHORIZES THAT "REPORTS AND VIEWS" OF THE ICCS BE SENT TO THE FOUR PARTIES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND REQUIRES THAT THIS INFORMATION BE FORWARDED BY THE FOUR PARTIES TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE.)

7. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THEN STATED THAT HIS STAFF HAD ATTEMPTED TO CARRY OUT THE ICCS' DECISION TO LOWER THE RVN FLAG FLYING ON THE ICCS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AND TO PUT UP THE ICCS AND CHIP FLAGS BUT HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY ARVN GUARDS. ALL AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PREMISES TO FLT THE HOST COUNTRY FLAG IN CASES WHERE THAT HOST COUNTRY IS NOT RPT NOT ALSO A MEMBER OF THAT ORGANIZATION. THE MATTER ALONG WITH THE CONDUCT OF THE ARVN GUARDS IN THIS

INSTANCE IS TO BE RAISED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE
CHAIRMAN'S CALL.

8. THE MAY 2 SHOOTING AT ICCS HELICOPTER NORTH OF QUANG TRI CITY
WAS NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED AT THE MAY 2 PLENARY. APPARENTLY ONLY
CANDEL WAS AWARE OF THE INCIDENT AT THE TIME. CONGEN DANANG
REPORTED ON MAY 3 THAT THE MEMBERS OF HELICOPTER NO. 115 RECOVERY
TEAM HAD RETURNED GIO LINH BY ROAD MAY 1 AND THENCE TO QUANG TRI
CITY, ALSO BY ROAD, ON MAY 2, BUT THAT THE SALVAGED PARTS OF
HELICOPTER NO. 115 REMAIN AT GIO LINH. CANDEL SAIGON STATES THAT
ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT WITH THE PRG TO TRUCK
THESE PARTS TO JUST ACROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER FROM QUANG TRI
AND THEN TO HELILIFT THEM TO QUANG TRI. THIS WILL PRESUMABLY
TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZADP000

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07741 02 OF 04 032208 Z

62/43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12

RSR-01 /128 W
----- 099988

O R 031050 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1139
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 SAIGON 7741

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R T V P A R A O N E

9. WHEN ON MAY 2 THE ICCS RECOVERY TEAM IN GIO LINH PROTESTED THE FIRING INCIDENT TO THE PRG THERE, THE LATTER CLAIMED THEY HAD BEEN SHOOTING AT AN UNIDENTIFIED " INTRUDER." ACCORDING TO A RECOVERY TEAM MEMBER, A JET FLEW OVER GIO LINH AT A HIGH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07741 02 OF 04 032208 Z

ALTITUDE SHORTLY AFTERWARDS AND THE PRG SEIZED ON THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN " INTRUDER."

10. THE " INTRUDER" STORY WAS GIVEN MORE DETAILS ON MAY 3 WHEN LIBERATION RADIO CARRIED A " PRG FOREIGN MINISTRY" STATEMENT ALLEGING THAT AT 1015 ON MAY 2 A US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, FLYING IN THE CORRIDOR THE PRG HAD " ESTABLISHED FOR ICCS AIRCRAFT", RECEIVED " PUNISHING FIRE" FROM THE " LOCAL PEOPLE' S ARMED FORCES." THE PRG THEN PROTESTED AND CONDEMNED THE " US ACT" WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS A " FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM." WE SUGGESTED TO CANDEL THAT THEY MIGHT ASK THE PRG IF THEY WISHED TO HAVE THE ICCS INVESTIGATE ITS COMPLAINT.

11. CANDEL SOURCES STATE THAT ICCS REPS AND PRESS REPORTERS WHO WERE PRESENT ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE THACH HAN AND CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE INCIDENT TO HEAR THE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHICH TURNED BACK THE TWO ICCS- MARKED CHOPPERS SAW NO RPT NO OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR WHILE THE FIRING WAS GOING ON EXCEPT THE ICCS CHOPPERS.

12. LATE REPORT: CANDEL SAIGON STATES THAT ON MAY 3 THE CANADIAN AT DUC CO HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING OUT ON MAY 3 FLIGHT, BUT THE INDONESIAN HAD BEEN PREVENTED BY THE PRG FROM DOING SO. THE HUNGARIAN AND POLE HAD MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DEPART.

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. PER SCHEDULE, NEITHER TPJMC CHIEFS NOR SUBCOMMISSIONS MET MAY 3. CHIEFS OF DELEGATION WILL MEET MAY 4, WITH PRG PRESIDING.

2. NO CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES OCCURED MAY 3. THE ICCS (SEE PART I) IS STILL TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PRG ON MODALITIES FOR ARRANGING FURTHER RELEASES AT LOC NINH WHICH WILL SATISFY ICCS CONCERNS RE AIRCRAFT SECURITY. (SEE PART V, PARAS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES IN MR-2; PART VI, PARA 3, FOR REPORT FROM MR-3; AND PART VII, PARA 6 FOR INFO ON CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES IN MR-4.)

PART III: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION)
(FPJMT/ MIA)
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07741 02 OF 04 032208 Z

AT THE MAY 3 MEETING THERE WAS SOME APPARENT PROGRESS ON THE
SUBJECT OF THE PROMISED MAY FPJMT VISIT TO GRAVE SITES IN
NORTH VIETNAM. IN PRIVATE THE ACTIN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07741 03 OF 04 032219 Z

61

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12

RSR-01 /128 W

----- 100078

O R 031050 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 SAIGON 7741

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PART VI PARA EIGHT

4. WITH REFERENCE TO SEIZURE IN NHA TRANG OF BOAT CARRYING
PARTY OF ALLEGED VIET CONG PURCHASING AGENTS (SAIGON 7611,
MAY 2 SITREP), NATIONAL POLICE SOURCE TOLD AM REP IN CONFIDENCE
THAT GROUP-- WHICH INCLUDED ONE POLICEMAN-- WAS AFTER ALL ENGAGED
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07741 03 OF 04 032219 Z

IN LEGITIMATE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE. EVIDENTLY TO SAVE FACE

OF NAVY AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THE SEVEN PERSONS ARRESTED WILL BE KEPT IN JAIL FOR BRIEF PERIOD AND THEN QUIETLY RELEASED.

5. CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES: MR 2 HQ REPORTS A DELEGATION MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF BOTH ELEMENTS OF THE TPJMC AND ICCS IS TO VISIT KHANH HOA, PHU YEN, AND KONTUM PROVINCES TODAY, MAY 3. PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO RECCE SITES PROPOSED FOR RELEASE OF SMALL GROUPS OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED APRIL 30 IN FIRST TWO PROVINCES AND MAY 1 IN KONTUM), TO AGREE ON NEW DATES AND TIMES, AND TO DELIVER TO AUTHORITIES IN EACH PROVINCE NAMES OF PERSONS TO BE RELEASED.

6. AM SENIOR REP IN BINH DINH HAS FURNISHED ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PRG RELEASE OF 294 " CIVILIAN" DETAINEES IN THAT PROVINCE APRIL 30. GVN RECEPTION COMMITTEE INCLUDED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL FROM SAIGON, WHO CO- SIGNED " MINUTES" OF THE RELEASE, AND BINH DINH' S INTERNAL SECURITY CHIEF AND THE HEAD OF HIS POLITICAL SECTION. RANKING DELEGATES ON PRG SIDE WERE TWO CADRE, ONE OF PROVINCIAL AND OTHER OF DISTRICT LEVEL (LATTER CO- SIGNED MINUTES), AND A VC MAJOR DESCRIBED AS COMING FROM " CENTRAL" LEVEL.

7. MOST OF THOSE RELEASED APPEARED TO BE SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE; MANY HAD PURPLISH- BLACK GUMS AND ALL COMPLAINED THAT CAPTORS HAD STARVED THEM. THEY REPORTED THAT MANY FELLOW PRISONERS HAD DIED IN CAPTIVITY; " ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVED."

8. OCCUPATIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THOSE RELEASED IS AS FOLLOWS: 77 RVNAF PERSONNEL; 73 POLICE; 55 REV DEVELOPMENT AND ONE CHIEU HOI CADRE; 60 CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF DISTRICT, VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVELS; AND 28 ORDINARY CIVILIANS, FOUR OF THEM WOMEN. THOSE RELEASED ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN QUI NHON FOR SEVERAL DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE REGISTERED BY NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH, THEN BE TRANSPORTED TO DANANG, EVIDENTLY FOR FURTHER PROCESSING.

PART VI: MR -3

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR-3 REMAINED LOW DURING THE 24- HOUR
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07741 03 OF 04 032219 Z

PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 3 MAY. THERE WERE 11 NVA/ VC INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED, CONSISTING OF FIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) , ONE GROUND CONTACT, TWO SNIPINGS, TWO MINE INCIDENTS AND ONE RAILROAD BRIDGE DESTROYED. TONG LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 56 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE, WOUNDING ONE RANGER. THE NVA/ VC AGAIN USED LOUDSPEAKERS ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE RANGERS TO SURRENDER THE CAMP. USDAO REPORTS THAT TWO RESUPPLY MISSIONS TO TONG LE CHAM AIR DROPPED TEN BUNDLES, SIX OF WHICH WERE RECOVERED. TWO SNIPING INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN GIA DINH PROVINCE. AT 1800 HOURS 2 MAY COMMUNISTS DETONATED EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ON A RAIL-

ROAD BRIDGE APPROXIMATELY 10 KMS WEST OF XUAN LOC CITY, LONG KHANH PROVINCE, DESTROYING APPROXIMATELY 70 PER CENT OF THE BRIDGE.

2. HIGH- LEVEL REGION V (BIEN HOA) ICCS CANDEL SOURCES STATES THAT THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE AN LOC SUB- REGIONAL TEAM DOES NOT WANT TO PULL OUT, BUT HAS BEEN ORDERED TO DO SO. IF THE INDONESIANS PULL OUT, THE HUNGARIANS AND THE POLES WILL GO WITH THEM; THUS THE CANADIANS ARE HOPING THAT THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION IN SAIGON WILL RECONSIDER. (CONGEN BIEN HOA COMMENT: A GOOD ARGUMENT FOR KEEPING THE ICCS IN AN LOC IS THE FACT THAT IN CEASEFIRE REGION V, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE PRESENCE OF AN ICCS TEAM HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON THE FIGHTING IS AT AN LOC, WHICH HAD BEEN SHELLED DAILY UNTIL THE SUB - REGIONAL TEAM ARRIVED ON APRIL 5. FROM APRIL 7 ON, AN LOC HAS NOT BEEN SHELLED.)

3. THE RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2 AT LOC NINH (BINH LONG PROVINCE) AND THIEN NGON (TAY NINH PROVINCE) WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE THE PRG WOULD NOT GIVE THE ICCS A WRITTEN GUARANTEE OF SAFETY. 400 CIVILIANS WERE TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED AT LOC NINH BY THE RVN, AND THE PRG WERE TO HAVE RELEASED 28 CIVILIANS AT THIEN NGON. (SEE PARTS I AND II).

4. RVN OFFICIALS IN HAU NGHIA ARE CONCERNED THAT COMMUNIST MOVEMENT ON THE WEST BANK OF THE VAM CO DONG IS INCREASING. THEY REPORT THAT SINCE 19 APRIL, TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 271 NVA REGIMENT ENTERED SOUTHWESTERN DUC HUE FROM CAMBODIA AND REMAIN IN POSITION. OTHER COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE MOVED EAST- SOUTH- EAST TOWARD GIA DINH AND LONG AN. IN AN AREA SOUTHWEST OF HIEP HOA VILLAGE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONSTRUCTED 60 HOUSES, AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCE CHIEF HAU WANTS HELP IN DESTROYING THEM AND DISRUPTING TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 271 ST REPORTEDLY IN WESTERN DUC HUE. TWICE- WEEKLY COMMUNIST CONVOYS HAVE, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 07741 03 OF 04 032219 Z

ACCORDING TO RVN OFFICIALS, BEEN SIGTED MOVING ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE HAU NGHIA BORDER, AND IT IS REPORTED THAT AMMUNITION IS BEING CACHED ALONG THE BORDER.

5. AREAS EAST OF THE VAM CO DONG WHICH BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE WERE CONTESTED DURING THE DAYTIME ARE STILL CONTESTED. FRIENDLY FORCES CAN, AS BEFORE, CONDUCT OPERATIONS INTO ANY OF THESE AREAS, BUT AS SOON AS THEY LEAVE COMMUNIST FORCES CAN MOVE ABOUT WITH RELATIVE FREEDOM. NIGHT TIME SECURITY OUTSIDE OF THE LARGER TOWNS OF HAU NGHIA REMAINS FAIR TO POOR.

6. ALTHOUGH LOCAL VC FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN AUGMENTED RECENTLY BY 60 HAU NGHIA YOUTHS, THERE IS STILL A LACK OF VCI OR GUERRILLAS TO LEAD NVA FORCES INTO THE PROVINCE AND HELP SECURE SUPPLIES. FIGHTS BETWEEN VC AND NVA FORCES ARE OCCASIONALLY REPORTED. NVA SOLDIERS WITH THE 271 ST REGIMENT REPORTEDLY KILLED TWO GUERRILLAS IN DUC HUE ON FEBRUARY 26 AND ONE ON MARCH 29. THE DEATH IN THE LATTER CASE WAS REPORTEDLY DUE TO A DISAGREEMENT OVER WHO -- THE NVA OR THE VC-- SHOULD MOVE OUT FIRST TO ATTACK AN

RVN POSITION.

7. ALTHOUGH THE BASIC SITUATION IN EASTERN HAU NGHIA HAS CHANGED LITTLE, RVN SOURCES REPORT WHAT THEY CONSIDER " NEW" DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN BINH DUONG -- THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE QUYET THANG BATTALION IN THE HO BO WOODS, INCREASED SUPPLY ACTIVITY INCREASED NIGHTLY COMMUN-

IST TRAFFIC UP AND DOWN ROUTE 15, THE APPEARANCE OF A NEW SAPPER BATTALION, AND A NEW LOCAL FORCE COMPANY. A GENUINE NEW PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN SINCE THE CEASEFIRE IS LACK OF AMMUNITION. A SOLDIER IN BAO TRAI REPORTED THAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE SHORT OF M-16, M-20, AND M-79 AMMUNITION. THE COMMANDER OF THE 25 TH ARVN DIVISION STATES THAT WHEREAS A GIVEN POSITION MIGHT FIRE 50 TO 100 ROUNDS BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE, IT NOW " CAN" FIRE ONLY THREE ROUNDS.

8. RVN MILITARY OFFICERS THINK FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE IN HAU NGHIA, BUT THEY HAVE DIFFERING OPINIONS ON WHEN THE NEXT MAJOR NVA OFFENSIVE WILL COME. ONE THEORY IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL TRY TO CUT NATIONAL ROUTE 1 JUST NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRANG BANG DISTRICT TOWN IN ORDER TO ISOLATE TAY NINH AND ESTABLISH A PRG CAPITAL THERE, IN PHUOC LONG, OR BINH LONG. OTHERS BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT HAU NGHIA IS A TARGET FOR MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY, EXCEPT TO CUT NATIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAIGON 07741 03 OF 04 032219 Z

ROUTE 1 AT TRANG BANG IF SOME LIMITED OFFENSIVE IS MOUNTED BY THE ENEMY IN TAY NINH. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT NATIONAL ROUTE 1 WILL BE CUT AFTER THE COMMUNISTS ATTACK OR SEIZE THE BAND OF INSECURE VILLAGES IN THE MIDDLE OF HAU NGHIA, AN TINH, THAI MY, PHUOC HIEP, AND

TRUNG LAP. THIS BAND OF VILLAGES HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE 101 ST NVA REGIMENT TO THE NORTHEAST AND THE 271 ST NVA REGIMENT TO THE WEST SINCE JANUARY.

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZADP000

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07741 04 OF 04 031432 Z

47
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /108 W
----- 095906

O R 031050 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WAFGDC IMMEDIATE 1141
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 SAIGON 7741

PART VII: MR 4

1. ARV REPORTED

ANOTHER RELATIVELY HIGH NUMBER OF 64 INCIDENTS
ON MAY 2. THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF GROUND ATTACKS OCCURRED
IN SOUTHERN BA XUYEN PROVINCE. GROUND ATTACKS WERE ALSO DIRECTED
AGAINST RVNAF POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN KIEN PHONG AND DINH TUONG.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07741 04 OF 04 031432 Z

ATTACKS BY INDIRECT FIRE PREDICTABLY WERE HEAVIEST IN CHUONG
THIEN.

2. THE VC/ NVA LAUNCHED A GROUND ATTACK MAY 2 AGAINST KIEN VAN
DISTRICT TOWN IN KIEN PHONG, AND FOLLOWED THE ATTACK WITH A
BARRAGE OF INDIRECT FIRE. KIEN VAN LIES ASTRIDE INTERPROVINCE
HIGHWAY 30 WHICH LINKS DINH TUONG WITH CAO LANH. SINCE EARLY
APRIL THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE BY THE
NVA Z-18 REGIMENT, TWO VC PROVINCIAL BATTALIONS, AND A VC
MR II UNDERWATER SAPPER UNIT. THE SAPPERS DESTROYED TWO KEY
ROUTE 30 BRIDGES EARLIER IN APRIL. VC/ NVA UNITS OVERRAN TWO
OUTPOSTS IN APRIL AND FARMERS IN OUTLYING AREAS WERE FORCED TO SIGN
PAPERS ADMITTING VC CONTROL. IN LARGE PART, THE VC/ NVA ARE
ATTEMPTING TO DIVERT ARVN 9 TH DIVISION FORCES FROM HONG HGU.
RVNAF RESOURCES ARE LIMITED AND TIED TO STATIC SECURITY POSITIONS.
ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICT CHIEF, TROOP MORALE IS LOW. (CONGEN
CAN THO COMMENT: THE DISTRICT'S SITUATION IS DIFFICULT BUT NOT
DESPERATE. GVN SERVICES FUNCTION BUT ARE HANDICAPPED BY
COMMUNIST PRESSURE, AND LESS RICE WILL BE PLANTED THAN IN PAST
YEARS.)

4. RVN SOURCES REPORT THE NEXT MEKONG RIVER CONVOY FOR PHNOM
LYENH, TP-40, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ENTER CAMBODIA MAY 3, HAS

BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 6.

5. REFLECTING A CONTINUING UPSURGE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA, VC TERRORISTS INFLECTED HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: TWELVE CIVILIANS LOST THEIR LIVES, AND OVER 30 WERE WOUNDED. ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS INCLUDED THE ASSASSINATION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND KILLING OF PSDF AND POLICE. CASUALTIES FROM MILITARY ATTACKS WERE ABOUT AVERAGE, 15 KIA AND 88 WIA. MR IV REPORTED 41 ENEMY KILLED.

6. THE HEAD OF THE GVN/ JMC TEAM IN VI THANH, LTC NGUYEN MAU, TOLD A POLITICAL REPORTER MAY 2 THAT HIS SAIGON SUPERIORS HAD ABRUPTLY CANCELED HIS EFFORT TO PICK UP ABOUT 50 VC-HELD CIVILIAN DETAINEES. MAU WAS ENROUTE TO THE RELEASE SITE IN THE U MINH FOREST WHEN HE RECEIVED WORD TO RETURN. WHEN THE ICCS DROPPED OUT OF THE VENTURE (SAIGON 7611 MAY 2 SITREP), THE GVN/ JMC IN SAIGON DECIDED TO ABANDON THE PROJECT. LTC MAU BELIEVES SAIGON' S DECISION A MISTAKE. HE THINKS OPERATING WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07741 04 OF 04 031432 Z

THE ICCS WOULD ESTABLISH A USEFUL PRECEDENT. HE ADDED THAT THE PRG WOULD PROTEST THE UNILATERAL GVN DECISION, AND THAT AT LEAST A WEEK WOULD PASS BEFORE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RELEASE COULD BE WORKED OUT.
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NMAFVVZCZ

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON07741
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730560/abqcehqqa.tel
Line Count: 569
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971119
Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT
TAGS: PINS, MILI, PINT
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
JAKARTA
MANILA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH

JEC PARIS
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
AMCONGEN DANANG
AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
AMCONGEN BIEN HOA
AMCONGEN CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG G NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
FPJMT

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005